THE BROAD AX

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

Will promulgate and at all times uphold the true principles of Democracy, but Catholics, Protestants, Priests, Infidels, Single Taxers, Republicans, or anyone else can have their say, as long as their language is proper and responsibility is fixed.

The Broad Ax is a newspaper whose platform is broad enough for all, ever claiming the editorial right to speak its own mind.

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The Flag of Denmark.

In the year 1219 King Waldemar of Denmark, when leading his troops to battle against the Livonians, saw, or thought he saw, a bright light in the form of a cross in the sky. He held this appearance to be a promise of divine aid and pressed forward to victory. From this time he had the cross placed on the flag of his country and called it the Dannebrog—that is, the strength of Denmark. Aside from legend, there is no doubt that this flag with the cross was adopted by Denmark in the thirteenth century and that at about the same date an order, known as the order of Dannebrog, was instituted, to which only soldiers and sailors who were distinguished for courage were allowed to belong. The flag of Denmark, a plain red banner bearing on it a white cross, is the oldest flag now in existence. For 300 years both Norway and Sweden were united with Denmark under this flag.

The Gegenschein.

The Gegenschein is the name given to one of the most inexplicable objects known to astronomers. It is visible in the night sky under favorable conditions, is rounded in outline and is situated always exactly opposite the place of the sun. It has been termed by one eminent astronomer "a sort of cometery or meteoric satellite" attending the earth. He supposes it to be composed of a cloud of meteors situated about a million miles from the earth and revolving around it it in a period of just one year, so that the sun and the meteors are always on opposite sides of the earth. It is estimated that the size of this ghostly satellite may be nearly the same as that of the planet Jupiter—i. e., about 86,000 miles in diameter.

A Modern Venus.

If a girl could have the neat ankles of the hosiery ads., and the trim waist of the corset ads., and the hair of the grower ads., and the teeth of the tooth-powder ads., and the complexion of the cold cream ads., wouldn't she be a wonder?

What would she do for a heart?

She wouldn't need a heart or a brain. We could give her the emotions of the heroines in the best seller ads.—Life.

Considerate.

Mrs. Brindle—Now, Mary, I want you to be extremely careful. This is some very old table linen—been in the family for over 200 years and— Mary—Ah, sure, ma'am, you needn't worry. I won't tell a soul about it, and it looks as good as new, anyway.—Chicago News.

Making Friends.

Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends, for it is one of God's best gifts. It involves many things, but, above all, the power of going out of one's self and seeing and appreciating whatever is noble and loving in another.—Thomas Hughes.

Rubbing the Eyes.

The Italian child is never allowed to rub its eyes. If it bursts into tears it is not repressed, but allowed to have the cry out. This, it is claimed, beautifies the eyes and makes them clear, while rubbing the eyes injures them in many ways.

More Urgent.

"Daughter, don't you want to improve your mind?"

"Of course, ma, but I'm busy with my complexion now."—Kansas City Journal.

Crab Locomotives.

The queerest locomotives are the types used in mining and called "crabs." Gliding into the black galleries of coal mines and halting at a crevice in the wall from which issues the distant ring of pick and shovel, the crab lets out a flexible tentacle (a steel cable) for perhaps 200 or 300 feet, drawing it back presently with a car of coal in tow. Feeling into the holes, first on one side, then on the other, it moves along and never fails to secure its prey. Finally, with a dozen or more cars in its wake, it proceeds to the shaft or outlet and delivers its booty to the crusher.

These crabs operate by trolley conductors. They run through the main passages of the mine. Each crab is furnished with an electrically operated drum, on which are carried 200 or 300 feet of steel cable. This is hauled into the side passages or drifts by a man, who couples the end to a loaded car, then gives a signal, and the crab does the rest.—George Frederick Stratton in St. Nicholas.

Eccentric Paving.

It is related that when Maximilian Emanuel succeeded to the throne of Bavaria he celebrated the event by causing one of the roads leading to his palace to be paved with plates of burnished copper. This, gleaming in the sunshine, gave all the effect of the more precious metal—gold.

We are told also that Louis XIV. paved one of the courts at Versailles with squares of silver, each of which had recorded upon it some triumph of the French arms. In the center of the court stood a large tablet of gold in representation of the luxurious monarch's favorite emblem—the sun. Memoirs of the time of Louis make mention of a lodge erected to the love of his youth, the fair Louise de la Valliere. The approach was paved with mirrors, wherein was painted an allegory setting forth the undying devotion of the king to Louise.

A Test of Youth.

You often see a woman at the market pinching the end of a chicken's breastbone to find out how tender—in other words, how young—the fowl is. Oddly enough, the same test with human beings is one of the most reliable known. If in advanced life the lower end of your breastbone feels elastic when pushed inward, you may assume that no important changes have yet taken place in your arteries or otherwise in your anatomical makeup.

The human breastbone is shaped like an ancient Roman sword, and the upper part of it is like the sword handle. Its point is a piece of cartilage, which anatomists call the "xiphoid" cartilage. The early hardening and stiffening of it indicate that the changes that accompany old age have prematurely begun.—Youth's Companion.

Insect Sits on Its Eggs.

Family matters in the case of insects usually mean only the depositing of eggs in suitable situations for the independent development of the offspring, the parent insects often dying before the young appear. The earwig, however, provides a remarkable exception to the general rule, for it sits upon its fifty or more eggs until they are hatched, just as a bird would do, and, moreover, if the eggs get scattered it carefully collects them together again. In the early months of the year, when digging the soil, female earwigs may frequently be found together with their batch of eggs. At the slightest sign of danger the young ones huddle close to their mother, hiding beneath her body so far as it will cover so large a family.—Strand Magazine.

Insect Wonders.

Nothing can exceed the perfection of the minutest parts of the insect organization in general. The finest strand in a spider's web, which can scarcely be seen, is said to be composed of no less than 4,000 threads. On a single wing of a butterfly have been found 100,000 scales and on that of a silkworm moth 400,000, each of these minutes scales being a marvel of beauty and completeness in itself. So thin are the wings of many insects that 50,000 placed over each other would only be a quarter of an inch thick, and yet, thin as they are, each is double.

Elephants In Uganda.

"Elephants in Uganda have a peculiar aspect that I have not noticed elsewhere," writes a traveler. "They cover their bodies, as a protection against flies, with the bright red volcanic dust contained in the soil. This gives them a remarkable appearance, as instead of being a slaty gray, as in the Nile valley, their color when thus covered with dust resembles that of a chestnut horse."

His Birthday Present.

Fair Customer—I want a birthday present for my husband. Dealer—Yes, mum. How would this old clock suit you? Fair Customer—Let me see. I've got a corner in my boudoir that will just do for it! And I've been wanting an old clock for a long time. Yes, that will do!

Unhappiness.

They who have never known prosperity can hardly be said to be unhappy. It is from the remembrance of joys we have lost that the arrows of affliction are pointed.—Emile Zola.

Not Jealous.

Mrs. Jawback—John, I do believe you are jealous of my first husband. Mr. Jawback—Well, no; I don't believe I'd call it jealousy. Envy is the word.

The only wealth which will not decay is knowledge.—Langford.

The Great Civilizer.

In many recent editorial contributions and magazine articles it is conclusively proved—were new proof necessary—that the railroad is the most potent of all factors in the civilization of mankind. Not only in a commercial sense, but in an ethical and religious sense, the railway is a pioneer, for it makes possible the intercourse of nations, the broadening of ideas, the seeking of newer and better things and the escape from the undesirable. In the wake of the railway come better conditions of every sort, for better transportation advantages beget better commercial conditions, and they in turn beget more intellectual development and higher ethical standards. That the railway is built primarily as a business investment does not alter the case. No claim was ever made that the railway was an ethical enterprise, but the fact remains, whatever the motive, that the railway is the handmaid of national progress, commercial, intellectual and religious.—New York Mail.

Frost Cracks.

In the annual lists of earthquakes registered at the Harvard seismographic station occasional shocks occurring in winter are noted as due to "frost cracks"—i. e., the sudden opening of fissures in the ground, resulting from freezing. The late Professor Shaler in one of his lectures mentioned the occurrence of a sensible shock at Cambridge some forty years ago, which he traced to a crack in the frozen ground. An apparent earthquake near Akron, O., probably due to a frost crack, was described in the American Geologist, Vol. 1, 1888, while another, which caused a mild panic at Attleboro, Mass., was reported in the Attleboro Sun of Jan. 23, 1903. Professor Woodworth says that "this idea of frost cracks is very widespread in New England as an explanation of many small shocks coming at a time when the frozen ground is known to have cracked open."—Philadelphia Press.

Discomforts of Coaching Days.

Posterity will know nothing of the misery their forefathers underwent in the traveling way, and whenever we hear—which we often do—unreasonable grumblings about the absence of trifling luxuries on railroads we are tempted to wish the parties consigned to a good long ride in an old stage-coach. Why, the worst third class that ever was put next the engine is infinitely better than the inside of the best of them used to be, to say nothing of the speed. As to the outsides of the old coaches, with their roastings, their soakings, their freezings and their smotherings with dust, one cannot but feel that the establishment of railways was a downright prolongation of life.—Surtees (1858).

Theodore Hook and His Chest.

Thomas Moore held the post of registrar in the Bermuda government, but he only held it for a few months and left after appointing a deputy. Another famous man of letters, Theodore Hook, held a somewhat similar position in Mauritius, but left suddenly under a cloud, owing to some irregularities with the treasury chest. It is said of this incorrigible joker that on his passage home he was asked by one of the passengers why he was leaving Mauritius and calmly replied that it was owing to "a little trouble with his chest."—Westminster Gazette.

Expensive Lighting.

It takes 40,650,000 candle power to light up the outside of the Woolworth building, in New York, every night. Six hundred projector lamps, with reflectors covered with silver—not mercury—filled with nitrogen gas, each consuming 250 watts of current and delivering 67,750 candle power, are used in this illumination, which makes the tower visible twenty miles away.—New York World.

Nobody at Home.

"They say," remarked the spinster boarder, "that the woman who hesitates is lost."

"Lost is not the proper word for it," growled the fussy old bachelor at the pedal extremity of the table. "She's extinct."—Indianapolis Star.

Keeps You Waiting.

"The time, the place and the girl are seldom found together."

"True. The girl is usually half an hour late."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

PRACTICAL HEALTH HINT.

Cancer Precautions.

A writer in a medical journal mentions, among the kind of things on the skin which must be observed for cancer, all moles and warts which grow in size; all moles which change their color and grow dark brown or black; all scaling warts, especially on the lips, the ears, the eyelids, the cheeks or the hands. He further states that "perhaps the most frequent excitant of all, so far as skin cancer is concerned, is dandruff. It falls from the scalp and lights on the ear, eyelids, nose, neck, lips and face, and if there is already a scaling spot or a thickening or a wart, a mole or a gland ready to receive the dandruff scale it sets this spot alive with activity, and it goes on to form a skin cancer. Probably 60 per cent of skin cancers are due to this cause, and many a cancer has been prevented and may be prevented by curing the dandruff or by preventing it."

True Fish Stories.

The Cyclosama negrofasciatus will fight with the savage tenacity of a bulldog and will leap high out of the water in pursuit of a tantalizing finger.

The walking perch from India will climb out of the aquarium and take a stroll around the floor looking for another pool unless you put a wire over the top of his home.

The shishigashira has a round fat kewpie body topped by a chubby cheeked cherub head, with the tiny eyes, small mouth and nose of a human being. Its coloring is marvelous, and it is considered sacred in Japan.

The angel fish is wider than it is long and has a chameleon-like quality of changing its color at will.

The Indian gouramis has arms with which it feels its way about or inspects anything new in the aquarium.

There are tailless fish and scaleless fish and fish without fins, blue fish, pink fish, lavender fish and particolored red, white and blue fish, but they are all goldfish, especially as to price.—Philadelphia North American.

Abusing a True Friend.

The truest and most devoted friend that man ever had is the little inanimate bundle of nerves that stands guard by his bedside through the dead hours of the night, its palpitating little heart spreading cheer and confidence over the surrounding gloom. Yet man often forgets the debt of gratitude he owes this faithful and tireless little friend for the sleepless, watchful hours it subjects itself to in order that he may slumber in security and comfort, and when it sings its merry morning lay I have seen him, instead of bestowing fond caresses, reach from his warm quilts, grasp it ruthlessly and slam it into the farther and darkest corner of the room, crushing the dainty hands that seemed uplifted in an attitude of horror and protection, scornfully muttering such uncouth and unworthy reproach as "Hang that blinkety-blank alarm clock, anyhow!" then return to his snoring!—Zim in Cartoons Magazine.

Stevenson's Brownies.

Stevenson maintained that much of his work was only partially original. His collaborators were the brownies who ran riot through his brain during the hours of sleep. He instances the case of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." "I had long been trying to write a story on this subject," he writes, "to find a body, a vehicle for that strong sense of man's double being which must at times come in upon and overwhelm the mind of every thinking creature. For two days I went about racking my brains for a plot of any sort, and on the second night I dreamed the scene at the window and a scene afterward split in two, in which Hyde, pursued for some crime, took the powder and underwent the change in the presence of his pursuers. All the rest was made awake and consciously, although I think I can trace in much of it the manner of my brownies."

Lordly Disraeli.

Disraeli once told a woman that two possessions which were indispensable to other people he had always done without. "I made," she said, "every kind of conjecture, but without success, and on my asking him to enlighten me he solemnly answered that they were a watch and an umbrella. 'But how do you manage,' I asked, 'if there happens to be no clock in the room and you want to know the time?' 'I ring for a servant,' was the magniloquent reply. 'Well,' I continued, 'and what about the umbrella? What do you do, for instance, if you are in the park and are caught in a sudden shower?' 'I take refuge,' he replied, with a smile of excessive gallantry, 'under the umbrella of the first pretty woman I meet.'"

A Warning.

"Watch out how you holler fer de worl' ter look up at you when you gits ter de mountain top," said Brother Williams. "Of all time dat's de one time ter lay low, fer de worl' will find you when it gits good an' ready. An' dis other thing is what you got to consider: De minute you hollers old man Trouble locates you an' sets his traps ter trip you an' send you rollin' down ter de bottom, whar you come from!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Flower of the Air.

There is a plant in Chile and a similar one in Japan called the "flower of the air." It is so called because it appears to have no root and is never fixed to the earth. It twines around a dry tree or sterile rock. Each shoot produces two or three flowers like a lily—white, transparent and odoriferous. It is capable of being transported 600 to 700 miles and vegetates as it travels suspended on a twig.

Perfect Machinery.

"Their household seems a perfect piece of machinery."

"Yes; the wife's the governor, the children safety valves and the husband a crank."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

His Views.

"Dear me, I forgot to send her an invitation to our wedding!"

"I imagine it won't make much difference. We won't miss one pickle fork."—Kansas City Journal.

Astronomy.

Astronomy is one of the most exact of the sciences. The powerful telescopes, the spectroscope and other almost perfect instruments come pretty near telling the truth.

Elephants' Toes.

The African elephant has two toes on its rear feet and three on its front feet, the Indian elephant has three on its rear feet and four on its front feet.

Origin of the Penny.

The "maiden name" of the penny was "denarius," and the English penny is a survival of the Roman rule in the British isles. Like the coin which preceded it in Rome, it has been debased in value until its name has lost its original meaning. The first denarius was minted in Rome about 268 B. C. and was the principal silver coin of both the republic and the empire. It at first weighed seventy-two grains troy and was as nearly pure silver as durability would permit. It bore on one side the helmeted head of Roma and the mark X and on the other side the images of Castor and Pollux. Later these twin gods were replaced by the head of the Roman emperors. By 215 A. D. the coin had deteriorated in value until it was only 40 per cent silver. The X, which signified the value of ten asses, had wholly lost its meaning. Diocletian finished the degradation of the denarius by applying the name to a small copper coin. In England the largest silver coin was called a denarius at a time when the English florin was called a gold penny.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Edison and His Mother.

During the short time that he attended school Thomas A. Edison was nearly always at the foot of his class. On one occasion a teacher remarked to the inspector that the boy was "addled" and that trying to tutor him was a mere waste of time.

The youth overheard the remark. He repeated it to his mother, who promptly took the child back to the school and told the teacher he did not know what he was talking about and that the lad had more brains than the teacher.

Referring to this critical period of his existence, Mr. Edison once said:

"Had it not been for my mother's appreciation and faith in me I should very likely never have been an inventor. She was so true, so sure of me, that I felt that I had some one to live for, some one I must not disappoint. The memory of her will always be a blessing to me."—Columbus Dispatch.

Proof That We Are Sheepish.

The Pittsburgh man who several years ago won a dinner from an Indiana county relative by taking a small piece of wood, a hammer and a nail and blocked traffic on lower Fifth avenue of the steel metropolis by hammering the nail into the shingle resting on the sidewalk has a follower here who did a similar stunt. The New Yorker won his wager by placing a ball of paper six inches in diameter at the corner of Wall street and Broadway and by staring at it got a crowd of a hundred people in five minutes. It proved the old contention of the psychology of crowds, showed that all the yokels are not living in the country and revealed that we humans all are more or less sheep.—New York Letter to Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Origin of Patents.

Patents (from pateo, I lie open) originated with the so called nobility of France. Lest their superiority to other folks should be in doubt, the nobles got out titles of nobility, so that the fact that they were better than the rest of the people might "lie open" to all the world. It was in connection with the printing of books that the first real patents were issued, about 1550. By 1625 it began to be customary to issue patents protecting the rights of inventors in the arts and manufactures. Since that time the patent offices of the world have had a steadily increasing business.

Got Some of the Poison.

"The late William Vaughn Moody," said a Harvard instructor, "was well liked. Moody hated gossip. One of our professors had a nasty, venomous tongue, and one day this gentleman appeared in chapel with his hand tied up.

"'What's the matter with him?' some one asked.

"'Oh, he's been trying to hold his tongue,' said Moody."—Exchange.

However, Father Was Moved.

She—Was father very angry when you broke the news of our engagement? He—I don't think so. His most poignant emotions, so far as I could discover them, appeared to be sympathy and relief.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Its Sort.

"That woman's tongue goes as fast as an express train."

"And it's always on the rail."—Baltimore American.

PRACTICAL HEALTH HINT.

Troublesome Tonsils.

Rheumatism is only a minor consequence of enlarged tonsils. Tuberculosis, asthma, epilepsy, articular rheumatism, goiter, valvular heart disease, stomach and intestinal ulcers, gallstones, glandular troubles and a dozen other serious or even fatal diseases are caused directly or are materially predisposed to by infection originating in the tonsils. The cure is simple. Have them either amputated or atrophied. Radical removal is more effective than slower shrinkage. But get rid of them in any event if they persist in occupying more than their proper share of space and attention. The operation in efficient hands is quick, safe and certain. And if the tonsils reappear the operation or the shrinkage treatment can be repeated.

Luxury In Puritan Days.

At no time, of course, was luxury completely absent from America. Men spend when the purse is full, even though the purse be small. Not all the sumptuary laws of seventeenth century Massachusetts could prevent sober Puritans from launching into extravagance, from purchasing apparel—"wollen, silke or lynnen with lace on it, silver, golde, silke or threed." Even the pious slid back into embroidered doublets with slashed sleeves into "gold or silver girdles, hatt bands, belts, ruffs, beaver hatts," while women of no particular rank appeared in forbidden silk and tiffany hoods. A century later we encounter disapproval of John Hancock's "show of extravagance in living," of his French and English furniture, his dances, dinners, carriages, wine cellars and fine clothes. Washington starved with his soldiers at Valley Forge, but lived like an English gentleman in his home at Mount Vernon. Luxury, pomp, ceremonial were not absent in the eighteenth century.—Walter E. Weyl in Harper's Magazine.

Initiative and Resolution.

Every young man should adopt the I. and R. in his life. That means initiative and resolution. That is, originate something; think up something to do in the world. Don't depend upon others to initiate for you. The world owes no man a living. Every one owes the world a life.

Then there is resolution. That's a man's virtue. It is a man's soul put in action. This sounds like sentiment, but it is solid fact. Half of the social and industrial disasters we experience today in politics, education, commerce and industry is because we practice ir. resolution and dependence. We will never settle our social and industrial troubles that way. We must think of something else to do, something we can resort to in case of misfortune and disaster. A man should save his earnings and invest them in land, in mine, in shop, in store—something on the outside to take up in times of emergency.—Ohio State Journal.

Dolls as Scapegoats.

The earliest dolls found were the "Answers" of the ancient Egyptians, which were buried with important personages in order that they might fulfill such duties as the rulers of the nether world might impose on the dead dignitary in his next incarnation. The more important the dead the larger the number of dolls buried with him. Even to this day the doll plays its part in the folklore of the banks of the Nile. When the river does not appear to rise properly a doll is thrown into its waters, representing the living virgin or boy who used of old to be thrown in to propitiate the Nile god, and a similar performance takes place on the banks of the Tiber, where a doll made of plaited rushes is used as a substitute for the human victim.—Westminster Gazette.

George Washington's Sobriquets.

Washington was called by many sobriquets. He was first of all "Father of His Country." "Providence left him childless that his country might call him father." Sigourney calls him "Pater Patriae;" Chief Justice Marshall, the "American Fabius." Lord Byron in his "Ode to Napoleon" calls him "the Cincinnatus of the West." For having a new world on his shoulders he was called the "Atlas of America." The English soldiery called him by the sarcastic nickname of "Lovely Georgius." Red Jacket, the Seneca Indian chief, called him the "Flower of the Forest." The Italian poet Vittorio Alfieri called him "Deliverer of America." His bitter opponents sarcastically called him the "Stepfather of His Country" during his presidency.

Death.

Death, the dry pedant, spares neither the rose nor the thistle, nor does he forget the solitary blade of grass in the distant waste. He destroys thoroughly and unceasingly. Everywhere we may see how he crushes to dust plants and beasts, men and their works. Even the Egyptian pyramids, that would seem to defy him, are trophies of his power, monuments of decay, graves of primeval kings.—Heinrich Heine.

Simple.

"Those twin boys of yours are so much alike that I don't see how you can tell them apart."

"That's easy enough. When they're on their good behavior they answer to their own names, and when they've been in mischief each one answers to the name of the other."—New Orleans Times-Picayune.

That Was All.

"Maria," demanded Mr. Billus in a loud voice, "what have you been doing to my razor?"

"Nothing," said Mrs. Billus, "except sharpening it again after shaving Fido's tail with it. It's all right, isn't it?"—Exchange.

Courtesy.

Courtesy in the mistress of a house consists in feeding conversation, never in usurping it. She is the guardian of this species of sacred fire, but it must be accessible to all.—Mme. Swetchine.

Serious Intentions.

Nellie—Hasn't Mr. Felewailey proposed yet? Nora—No, but he has gone as far as to ask what time we have breakfast and whether mother is a good cook.—Exchange.

His Specialty.

Hokus—Scribbler has had no less than nine plays rejected. Pokus—What is he doing now? Hokus—Writing essays on the decline of the drama.—Life.